

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS)
Public Hearing
MDRS OVR/OVRB Combined State Plan
MDRS OVR/OVRB Policy Manual



Meeting of Combined State Plan
Friday, February 25, 2022
11:00a.m.

Options to participate in our State Plan and Policy Manual Public Hearing are listed below.

(1) Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88604414682?pwd=eGZ6M1dXck16WHVQVGMySW1RdDI2QT09>

Meeting ID: 886 0441 4682

Passcode: 720396

(1) Join via Conference Call:

Phone Number: (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 883 1395 5981

Passcode: 280433

(2) Register to attend:

Locations are listed below

OVERVIEW

The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind (OVRB) is inviting our fellow Mississippians especially the families and persons with disabilities to our State Plan and Policy Manual Public Hearing to be held on February 25, 2022. The plan will be submitted to Rehabilitation Services Administration on or before July 1, 2022. Interested citizens may provide public comment and feedback on the agency's required updates to the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Portion of FY 2022 State Plan and the MDRS OVR/OVRB Policy Manual Changes for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 to Excellanxt Woodard at 1-800-443-1000 or via email ewoodard@mdrs.ms.gov

The MDRS updates will describe SRC and MDRS progress on goals for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind (VRB) programs and will make recommendations for future vocational rehabilitation services implementation which includes OVR/OVRB Policy Manual changes. These updates, when approved by the Rehabilitation Services Administration, will become part of the current state plan which will remain in effect through June 30, 2024.

Submit written comments to:

Excellanxt Woodard, VRB Program Coordinator

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind

1281 Highway 51 North

Madison, MS 39110

ewoodard@mdrs.ms.gov

Accommodations

If you need a reasonable accommodation, please submit your request at least two weeks in advance to Denee Smith, State Coordinator of Interpreting Services, by email at desmith@mdrs.ms.gov or Barbara Hadnott, Accessibility Lead for the Blind at 601-364-2676 or by email at bhadnott@mdrs.ms.gov.

***Requests made less than 2 weeks before the meeting will be considered but may not be possible to fill. Please advise if you will need American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters and/or Communication Access Real Time Transcription (CART) services.*

Copies of the proposed State Plan will be available **in large print** for review beginning Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at the Madison Central Office and the locations listed below. The proposed State Plan will also be linked on the MDRS website. A version of the State Plan in braille is available upon request. If you would like to review the State Plan on Newline a service for the blind, at no cost, you may access online at <https://nfb.org/programs-services/nfb-newsline> or contact Margaret Y. Smitherman, Reader's Advisor, at MS Talking Book Services, MS Library Commission, 601-432-4111. All comments regarding changes to the FY 2022 State Plan received during the public hearing or submitted in writing will need to be noted, recorded and considered.

Remote public hearing sites will be at the following locations and due to COVID precaution you can access the zoom link, join via conference call or registered to attend in person by contacting Excellanxt Woodard at 1-800-443-1000 or via email. There will be a limited of seating to 10. Please register in advance for face to face with Excellanxt Woodard by calling 1-601-853-5239. We want your involvement but also offer a safe environment.

- 1. AbilityWorks, Inc. – Jackson- seating of 10**
3895 Beasley Road
Jackson, MS 39213
(601) 898-7076
- 2. AbilityWorks, Inc. – Tupelo seating of 10**
613 Pegram Drive
Tupelo, MS 38802
(662) 842-2144
- 3. AbilityWorks, Inc. – Greenwood seating of 10**
2503 Browning Road
Greenwood, MS 38930
(662) 453-7500
- 4. AbilityWorks, Inc. – Meridian seating of 10**
1003 College Drive
Meridian, MS 39034
(601) 649-8094
- 5. AbilityWorks, Inc. – Brookhaven seating of 10**
934 Industrial Park Road, N.E.
Brookhaven, MS 39601
(601) 833-3201

- 6. AbilityWorks, Inc. – Harrison Cty. Seating of 10**
10280 Larkin-Smith Drive
Gulfport, MS 39503
(228) 897-7616

- 7. Addie McBryde Center- seating of 10**
2550 Peachtree Street
Jackson, MS 39296
(601) 364-2700

- 8. The ARC of Mississippi – seating of 10**
704 North President Street
Jackson, MS 39202
(601) 355-0220

- 9. The ARC of Coastal Counties- seating of 10**
3109 Gulf Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501
(228) 868-9755